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IN MEMORIAM --- DR. A. H. BENEFIEL

By J. L. Sloanaker.

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Death, caused by pneumonia, followed by pleurisy, overtook Dr. A. H. Benefiel, principal of the North Central High school of Spokane, Wash., on Tuesday evening, April 11, 1922. He was a member of the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, and vice-president of the Spokane Bird Club. Dr. Benefiel was born at Davenport, Iowa, in March 1873. He was graduated at the University of Michigan, came to Spokane in 1916 and for a time practised osteopathy. Later he became a science teacher in the high school, and was the principal of the North Central High at the time of his death.

It was on Feb. 9, 1916 that ten persons interested in bird study met in the office of Dr. Benefiel in Spokane to organize the Spokane Bird Club. As one of its organizers, he was one of its leaders, being a regular attendant at all meetings, and by his reports of his field trips and discussion of its programs, he furnished an inspiration to the members in matters ornithological. As a science teacher in the high school, he favored the biological department, and on several different occasions had bird talks, accompanied by lantern slides, given before the entire student body in general assembly. He was examiner for those boy scouts who were working for a merit badge in bird study. He also encouraged and assisted the Spokane Museum in getting started, and was instrumental in persuading the Bird Club to place its collections there.

These things all go to show that he was a true nature lover, a fact which stood him in good stead in handling two thousand high school boys and girls. It was always from their standpoint and for their benefit that he gave his decisions. A lover of nature can understand human nature. For this reason not only the high school children, but also his associates in all the various clubs and organizations to which he belonged, will feel the loss and mourn the premature death of a friend and companion.

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